

2427/207-104

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-17, and 20 remain in the application.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. Claims 18-19 and 21-22 have been canceled.

In item 3 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-22 as being obvious over Gardill (5,614,285) in view of Hawley's Condensed Chemical Dictionary (HCCD) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to define more clearly the invention of the instant application.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, a brief review of the invention as claimed is provided. Amended claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*, a multilayer composite body having the following features:

thermoplastic layers having synthetic materials;

natural fiber layers bonded with thermoplastic synthetic material; and

at least one reinforcing insert adjacent to said thermoplastic layers and said natural fiber layers, said at least one reinforcing insert having an open-pored fabric formed from fibers, said fabric penetrated from at least one side by melted synthetic materials of at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers integrating into and reinforcing said at

least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers;

at least one of said thermoplastic layers forming an outer surface of said multilayer composite body and forming at least one molded functional element on said outer surface selected from the group consisting of a fixing strip and a rib. (Emphasis added by Applicant.)

Gardill discloses a process for forming, "A panel for an automotive interior." The type of panels being considered in Gardill are limited to "Interior door panels, floor panels, and rear deck storage panels." (col. 1, lines 12-13).

In contrast, the invention according to claims 1 and 13 involve functional structures: specifically, fixing strips and ribs.

Because Gardill never describes these structures or anything beyond simple panels, the structures claimed in the instant application are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, claims 1 and 13 are patentable over the cited prior art. Moreover, because all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-17, and 20 are solicited. In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be

2427/207-104

unpatentable, please telephone counsel so that patentable language can be substituted.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$55 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicant

LOREN DONALD PEARSON
REG. NO. 42,987

LDP:cgm

June 6, 2003

Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101

FAX RECEIVED
JUN 09 2003
GROUP 1700